to this, consumers are facing a lot of inconveniences there. I request and ask honourable Minister as to what reasons are there for shortage of gas cylinders. To the best of my knowledge in connection with this shortage, gas cylinders are being sold to the private persons in good numbers. Therefore, it should be looked into and the necessary action should also be taken by the Minister himself in connection with the supply of gas cylinders to the people of Tumsar, Bhandara and Gondia.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, tender coconut water is very sweet, and we all now enjoy it on the flights also because it is available there. Why do they not popularise it throughout India? If crores of people in India get accustomed to it, then I think the coconut-growing farmers will be saved. I am saying this because the farmers are now in great difficulty. Each inch of coconut is of importance, and it is very palatable. It is very tasty, and it is useful from the health point of view also. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please put your demand.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, the farmers of coconut, pepper, cardamom, vanilla, and all such cash crops are in great difficulty and hardship. The farmers are committing suicide because they are not getting good prices for the same. Why is the Government not coming forward to popularise these items among the people?

There was an advertisement issued by the Spices Board, which stated "*Elam oru sheelam aaku*". It was in Malayalam, which meant: "Make cardamom a habit."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is your demand?

SHIR P.C. THOMAS : Sir, this was the advertisement issued, and it had a big effect on the people to popularise cardamom. Why not popularise each of these items, and create domestic market for all these items?

I would appeal of the Government of India to popularise these items. Large amounts are shown in the Budget, but no amount is reaching the ground level.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, it is just repetition. Please sit down. Nothing more should be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, please give me one minute. The Government should take some initiative to popularise these items. It will also help the farmers who are facing a lot of difficulty. I would submit, through you, that the Government should take a serious note of this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Thomas, it is sheer repetition. Next is Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I will be able to give you only one minute to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and entire House, to the very serious issue. Prof. Mumtaz Ansari use to be a member of this House and now he is an ex-Member of Parliament. He has his own house in Patna but was employed in Ranchi, Jharkhand as a professor. Some years ago he stepped out from his house towards office of join the college, but there has been no clue of him so far Due to which his whole family is agonized. But he is still missing. If there had been any mishappening, there would have been information through you. Whether he is drawing his pension or not, no information is there is this connection. His whole family is agonized.

Through you, I would like to draw the attention of honourable Minister of Home Affairs that whereabout of Prof. Mumtaz Ansari an ex-Member of Parliament, should be found out as early as possible by taking action and this matter also be handed over to CBI considering it a serious issue. You are custodian of all sitting and ex-honourable members of Parliament. I would like to urge upon you that the Government should be specifically directed so that it could trace out Prof. Mumtaz Ansari while taking initiative in this matter. He should also trace out as to where he is otherwise this whole affair should be handed over to CBI so that his case could be brought to the notice of government.

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*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Next is Chandrakant Khaire

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Honourable Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. He may collect the information. It is very important matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your matter has come up and your point has also come up.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : He is also a Minister of Information and Broadcasting. But what does mean information? You should tell him that he should look into it in the capacity of Parliamentary Affairs Minister as to where ex- MP has been missing for two years. The Government are not paying any attention to it. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please sit down. The point being made by him has already come in the record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : You are a custodian of sitting Members of Parliament and ex-Member of Parliament and it should not be taken in lighter way. It is very important and serious issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I associate the name of Shri Sitaram Singh?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : An ex Member of Parliament is not there. He has been missing for two years. Whether he has been murdered or something other has happened to him, nothing is coming to notice. . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You know that I can not compel the Government to make a statement. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Nanded of Marathwada region of Maharashtra comes under or South Central Zone of Maharashtra. The people of that area have been demanding for long a time and all Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly and activities have also submitted that Dharmabad and Mudkher should be annexed to Marathi speaking Nanded and be brought under Central Zone by removing them from South Central. I have made this demand many a time. Former Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar was to bring in over a proposal in this regard, but it could not be done so due to some difficulties. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Minister of Railways and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways sitting in the House that our Nanded Division should be brought under Central Zone by removing it from South Central so as to provide the convenience to the Marathi speaking people. ZRUCC Committee have also sent a similar proposal to the Railway Board.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You may please meet Shri Lalu Prasad separately in his Chamber.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it has been heavy hailstorm in Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur district located at Khajuraho in which around 250 villages of Tikamgarh and 150 villages of Chhatarpur district have come in the grip of hailstorm prior to it, one hundred or and one hundred twenty five villages were also destroyed due to flood. Thereafter due to frog arhar, masoor and gram crops were destroyed. Condition of that area is very bad Drought like situation is prevailing there. Six tehsiles of Tikamgarh have become drought ridden. Drinking water problem has arisen there. People have been unemployed there. The State government is helping with its full might. But still the Centre Government has not paid any attention so far. I would like to request through you that a survey should be conducted there by sending a central team there and the farmers be helped by giving them a special package. Condition should be brought under control. The people are compelled to migrate from there. Livelihood problem has arisen there. Mere employment guarantee is not going serve the